Food Production

* 438 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any scheme sponsored with the assistance of the Ford Foundation for maximising food production in one district has been formulated and sent to the Centre for approval; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) An outline of a scheme by the Government of India for intensifying agricultural production in selected areas with the assistance of the Ford Foundation has been received from the Government of India.

This scheme is to be implemented as a pilot programme in a selected district having optimum potential for maximising production and to ascertain the most effective wages of expanding food production. Details relating to the scheme have not yet been finalised. Thanjavur District has been selected by the Government for the implementation of the scheme. The finalized scheme is awaited from the Government of India.

"Package programme"

*454-A *Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Thanjavur district has been finally fixed for the package assistance programme in Agriculture;

(*b*) the details of assistance to be given to individual agriculturists;

(*c*) the total financial and production targets aimed at through the programme; and

(*d*) the date on which this programme will commence?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) *to* (*d*) It has been tentatively decided to implement the scheme in Thanjavur district. Details relating to the scheme have not yet been settled and final decisions will be taken on receipt of the finalized scheme from the Government of India. It has since been proposed to inaugurate the scheme on the Tamil New Year's day, i.e., 13th April 1960.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : I have no objection to the Thanjavur district being selected for this purpose. But the point is why the Government are selecting always developed areas and why not they select under-developed areas?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : When the hon. Member raised no objection to the selection of the Thanjavur District. I thought that he agreed with the decision of the Government. On account of the larger production potential, the Thanjavur district has been selected.

17th March 1960]

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : May I know whether this scheme will be extended to other areas also in course of time?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Under the scheme only one district is to be taken up. Unless the scheme is expanded, I cannot tell the hon. Member that it may be extended to other districts.

SRI A. GOVINDASAMY : தஞ்சை மாவட்டம் பூராவுக்கும் இந்தத் திட்டம் அமுலுக்கு வருகிறதா? அல்லது சில வறண்ட பகுதிகள் விடப்படுமா?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : தஞ்சை மாவட்டம் பூராவுக்கும் இந்தத் திட்டம் வரும். ஆனல் உடனடியாக வட்டார வளர்ச்சித் திட்டம் எங்கெங்கு நடைபெறுகிறதோ அங்கெல்லாம் தான் முதல்படியாகத் தொடங்கப்படும்.

SRI S. NAGARAJA MONIGAR : Is it only financial help that the Ford Foundation are giving us or are they giving a ready-made scheme, of which they are masters, to be adopted here with suitable changes in the light of the conditions obtaining in the country?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Not merely financial help that is available but there are also other aids. For instance, even if we have the necessary finance, it is not possible to get the necesasry fertilizers required. But under this scheme, the Government will be enabled to get their requirements of fertilizers even with reference to the foreign exchange that should be made available.

Water-supply to Madras City

* 439 Q.—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Geological Survey has succeeded in getting water by drilling underground near Madras; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to pump out the water to augment Madras City's water-supply?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) The survey conducted by the Superintending Geologist, Government of India, has revealed that water bearing stratum might be available near Minjur.

(b) The responsibility for the provision of water supply in the City is that of the Corporation of Madras. The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, has reported that it may not be advisable to place too much reliance on the underground source for the City water supply.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is the Hon. Minister aware that the City's water supply is inadequate and if so, what steps do the Government propose to take to augment the City's water supply?